

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

No. I. A New Avine Family for Siam.⁽¹⁾

On the 17th of April, 1937, from a Chantabun-bound boat out of Bangkok, the writer was surprised to observe, among the numerous gulls, a solitary individual of some species of *Stercorarius*. The bird, a sub-adult in the light phase of plumage, was seen in the Inner Gulf, less than half the distance from Pak Nam to Ko Si Chang, and, during several minutes, it played about our bows, at times near enough to have been captured by a butterfly-net. The characters common to the genus were noted with ease. Direct comparison showed it to be about the same size as the gulls (*Larus brunnicephalus*) flying with it.

The genus *Stercorarius* embraces three species of pelagic birds known in England as skuas, in America as jaegers. They breed in the circumpolar sub-arctic regions and, during the boreal winter, wander south over the oceans, two of them on occasion reaching the Southern Hemisphere.

Stercorarius longicaudus, the Long-tailed Skua, has the most restricted winter range, and is unknown south of Japan, the Mediterranean Sea, and the coasts of West Africa.

Stercorarius pomarinus, the Pomatorhine Skua, is known from tropical Asia by a single specimen taken many years ago at Moulmein, Burma. In the Old World it is otherwise recorded from the coasts of West Africa, the Mediterranean and Black Seas, Japan, and (rarely) Australia.

Stercorarius parasiticus, Richardson's or the Parasitic Skua, is the commonest and most widely wandering of the three. The localities nearest to Siam from which it is known are Japan, Australia, Madagascar, and, in north-western India, the coast of Sind.

In the absence of a specimen, it would be rash indeed to attempt specific identification of this bird, but the ranges given above show that the presence in Siamese waters of any one of them must be considered highly remarkable.

H. G. DEIGNAN.

Washington, 13 August, 1938.

No. II. A Fine Sambhar Stag's Head.

Phya Winit Wanandorn obtained this year a very heavy Sambhar's head from Kaw in the Me Ping rapids mid-way between Chiengmai and Raheng. The horns are much heavier than any the writer has previously examined.

Phya Winit, of the Forest Department, was anxious to hear of good trophies with a view to a loan exhibition at the Saranarom Gardens during the Constitution Day celebrations.

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